

WOULD PROTECT THE 'SUFFRAGE'

To the Editor Ocala Banner:

Quite a number of the southern states have, within the last decade, called constitutional conventions and incorporated into the organic law various schemes, or provisions, limiting and qualifying the right of suffrage. That the necessity for so doing was urgent and imperative no thoughtful person, who recognizes the fact that the prosperity of our country and the stability of our government, as well as the peace and happiness of our people, depend upon the government being in the hands of the intelligent and honest citizens of the country, no one will deny. The right of suffrage is a sacred trust and should always be exercised for the greatest good of the greatest number, and no one should be invested with the right to exercise it unless he be endowed with sufficient intelligence to comprehend its sacred purpose, and sufficient honesty and moral character to use it as was intended by the founders of our government. The theory of our republican form of government is superb in its conception, but it can never be carried out in accordance with the design of its architects with universal, unqualified and unrestricted suffrage. No fact needs less argument to sustain it than the proposition. The experiences through which our republic has passed during the last half century of its existence has demonstrated it beyond all shadow of doubt. It is a fact, therefore, and not a theory that confronts us. It has confronted other states and some of them have taken steps intended to correct the evil, or at least to check it in its onward march. They have held constitutional conventions and incorporated into the fundamental law provisions which were intended to restrict and limit the right of suffrage as far as practicable, to those who would exercise the high privilege with due regard to the best interest of the whole people, but in my judgment the measures so adopted are cumbersome, complex and for many reasons objectionable, besides having the grave defect of growing less and less efficient as the years go by. The grandfather clauses—the revolutionary descendant clauses—the reading and interpretation of articles of the United States and state constitutions and such like provisions are but transitory and will fade away in the rolling years as clouds melt away before the noonday sun.

Florida has not yet fallen in line with the other southern states in any fixed attempt to regulate the right of suffrage, but the handwriting is on the wall and it is now up to our people to take action in the matter in order that the growing prosperity of the people of our state and the happiness of the generations yet to come may be assured and perpetuated. In 1895 when the constitutional convention for this purpose was about to assemble in South Carolina, I wrote several articles suggesting a plan regulating the right of suffrage, which were published in the Charleston News and Courier, and highly commended by the editor of that paper. It was more or less commented upon and favorably discussed by correspondents from various sections of the state and editors of other papers. When the convention assembled my plan was offered by a member and endorsed and supported by a number of that body. But it was not Tillman's plan, and it was in the days when he took snuff and a large majority of the people sneezed, and so it was that my plan was defeated and the scheme proposed by Tillman was adopted. That was only twelve years ago, and just the other day Tillman was before the South Carolina general assembly urging that body to do something with his old scheme, as time was already gradually letting down the bars and before very many years the whole gap would be down. After reading the foregoing you doubtless wish to know what my plan is, but this article has grown so very lengthy that I will only outline, and if the people of the state manifest any desire that I go into the subject in detail I will do so in another article. I claim for my plan that it is fair, practical and free from constitutional objections, as I feel confident that it cannot be successfully assailed in any court, as in violation of any article of the United States constitution. Briefly outlined it is as follows:

First. Allow every male citizen who has reached the age of 21 years, and has paid his poll tax for the year previous to the election, and who is not an idiot, lunatic or pauper, or has not been convicted of any crime which by law now does, or may hereafter, disqualify him, one vote as a citizen or poll vote. (This meets the requirements of the United States constitution that no one shall be deprived of the right to vote on account of race, color, etc.)

Second. Give an additional vote, to every qualified voter who pays taxes on \$500 worth of property, or more.

Third. Give this privilege vote to

any qualified voter who owns little or no property in his own right, provided his wife pays taxes on \$500 or more property; or in cases of widows who own and pay taxes on \$500 of property, then the privilege vote to be cast by the manager or trustee of her estate; provided that no voter shall be entitled to more than one privilege vote.

Under such provisions all good citizens are allowed to cast a vote for their good citizenship alike, and at the same time those who contribute most for the support of the government have, but that which is their just right, the privilege of casting an extra vote in order to protect their property rights by securing good, honest and efficient government.

Of course this would only apply to general elections and not to the primaries, so that in the nomination of those who are to be voted for at the general election the poorest would stand on an equal footing with the largest property owner in the state.

While the constitution of this state might be much improved in many respects if a constitutional convention were called, still for the improvement of the provisions touching the right of suffrage, it can be done by an amendment.

LAURIE T. ZILAR
Ocala, Fla., February 5, 1908.

VALUABLE GIRT TO THE UNITED STATES

Washington, D. C., Feb. 6, 1908.

To the Editor Ocala Banner:

One of the most public spirited gifts ever made to the government has come from William Kent of Chicago, who has just deeded to the United States 295 acres of primeval redwood forest on the southern slope of Mt. Tamalpais, about six miles from the city of San Francisco. The land was deeded to the government with the approval of Forester Gifford Pinchot, chief of the United States forest service. The papers have now gone to the secretary of the interior and a proclamation declaring the canyon a national monument will be signed at an early date.

This means that more of California's redwood giants will be saved for the scientific study and pleasure of the whole country, in fact the whole world, for the great sequoias are only found in the Golden State. This grove given to the government by Mr. Kent is one of the only tracts of redwood forests to be found in its natural state in California today. The land is said to have cost Mr. Kent \$47,000 some years ago, but its stand of redwood timber alone is now valued at more than \$150,000 on the market.

The canyons of Tamalpais which drain into San Francisco Bay, were cut clean years ago, and the redwood obtained from them went into the construction of the Old San Francisco. The giants on the tract to be known as "Muir Woods," escaped the axe, however, chiefly because the outlet is on the ocean side instead of the bay side, and also because the various owners of the land have for sentimental reasons jealously guarded the timber from harm or destruction. Modern methods of logging would make short work of the timber, and would, besides, put a handsome profit in the hands of the owners.

It is the intention to name the national monument "Muir Woods," after John Muir, the noted naturalist. The giants of Redwood Canyon will now be given permanent protection by virtue of the act of June 8, 1906, which provides that objects of scientific interest may be declared national monuments if such action is deemed necessary for their preservation and protection. This 295-acre tract will be a pleasure ground as well as a place for scientific study for the people practically of the whole of California, for within a radius of 52 miles of the canyon two-thirds of the population of the entire state are centered.

The chief reason for the permanent protection of the land by the government is that there is no other redwood grove in the whole world more accessible to so many people. The canyon is in absolutely primeval condition, not so much as scratched by the hands of man. It lies within an hour's ride of San Francisco, at the very door of hundreds of thousands of people.

So long as the land remains in private ownership there is always danger that the trees will be attacked, and Mr. Kent feared this, but as a national monument they will be safe for all time. There are, of course, many finer stands of redwood in California, but there are no typical groves owned by the United States, nor are there any which might be acquired by the government except at great expense.

Originally this land was part of the old Spanish grant, "Rancho Sausalito." Mr. Kent purchased the land some years ago for a sum said to be about \$47,000. To insure the preservation of the redwoods for the instruction and enjoyment of all the people for the years to come, he has now deeded the tract to the United States as a gift. The largest redwoods are eighteen feet in diameter at the butt and will approach three hundred feet in height, rising with

perfectly straight and clean stems. As none of the big trees have been cut, their age is of course somewhat problematical, but it is safe to say that the veterans have stood from one thousand to fifteen hundred years.

The total stand of redwood, roughly estimated, is about 30,000,000 feet, with some 5,000,000 feet of fir, and a very considerable amount of tan bark oak. The redwood alone, at a fair valuation, has a market value of \$150,000 as it stands. Except for a narrow strip of brush along the east border and a fringe along the southwest line, the whole canyon is covered with a dense forest growth. The stand is heaviest along the creek and on the lower slopes, becoming poorer above. Redwood is the dominating tree, towering high above everything else, and forming fully three-fourths of the whole forest. Douglas fir is next in importance, and scattered over the entire tract are all the various hardwoods common to the region, chief among which are the numerous oaks, madrone, alder, maple and the mountain laurel, all of which form a kind of dwarf underwood to the lofty redwood and fir. The redwood occurs both in large and small groups and by single trees, while the other species are sprinkled throughout.

The destruction of redwood by lumbering has been so rapid in the last decade that it is now only a question of years when the original growth will have wholly disappeared. Its extraordinary scientific and educational value, along with the fact that it is a pleasure ground for all of the people who live or visit this part of California, makes the wood an ideal national monument.

Many Sleepless Nights Owing to a Persistent Cough—Relief Found At Last

"For several winters past my wife has been troubled with a most persistent and disagreeable cough, which has invariably extended over a period of several weeks and caused her many sleepless nights," writes Will J. Hayner, editor of the Burley, Colo., Bulletin. "Various remedies were tried each year with no beneficial results. In November last the cough again put in an appearance, and my wife, acting on the suggestion of a friend, purchased a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. The result was indeed marvelous. After three doses entirely disappeared and has not manifested itself since." This remedy is for sale by all druggists.

WANTS \$10,000 DAMAGES

Suit for damages to the amount of \$10,000 has been brought by Attorney J. J. Lunford for Col. Samuel T. Fletcher, against the Atlantic Coast Line Railway Co.

Colonel Fletcher alleges that he was cursed and assaulted on Fort Myers train No. 27 of the Atlantic Coast Line, Sunday morning, January 5, between Plant City and Dover, by Conductor W. T. Miller, whom he alleges was drunk at the time.

Colonel Fletcher alleges further that Miller accused him of attempting to beat his way on the train, despite the fact that he had paid Miller mileage from Lakeland to Dover, and that Miller struck him, whereupon the Tampa attorney gave the conductor more than the latter was expecting.

Lamar S. Wolf, a Tampa broker, was on the train, and will substantiate the evidence of Mr. Fletcher in the suit. Miller lives in Lakeland.—Evening News.

ADVICE 3500 YEARS OLD

One of the oldest books in existence is a collection of proverbs by Ptahhotep, an Egyptian, who lived somewhere about the time of Abraham. Among his injunctions is the following, which we commend to the writers on woman's emancipation, domestic economy, and other popular topics, who may think that the subjects which they discuss are fresh and suggested by the increased intelligence of modern civilization: "If thou be wise, furnish thy house well; woo thy wife and do not quarrel with her; nourish her; deck her out, for fine dress is her greatest delight. Purpose to make her glad as long as thou livest. She is a blessing which her possessor should treat as becomes his own standing. Be not unkind to her."

PROGRESSIVE GRANGES

At their annual meetings held last month, state granges of New Jersey, Indiana, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Michigan passed woman suffrage resolutions. The Ohio grange, already on record as favoring full suffrage for women, adopted a resolution endorsing woman suffrage in local option elections. California, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Oregon and Washington state granges are others which have declared for equal suffrage, while the national grange not only endorses it but recommends its discussion in subordinate organizations.

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Star Rye	\$1.50	FOR \$2.90	Belle Isle	\$1.75
Red Rock Rye	1.75	We will send, express prepaid, 4 full quarts of	King of Kentucky	.75
Keystone	2.00	STRAUSS I X L	Uncle Joe	1.00
Belle Isle	2.50		Strauss' Royal Reserve	1.00
Log Cabin	3.00		Old Maryland Reserve	1.00
Keating's Pride	3.00		Old Harvest Corn	1.00
Monogram	3.50		Pilgrimage	1.25
Uncle Joe	3.50		Cascade	1.25
Pilgrimage	4.00		White Oak	1.25
Fern Hill	5.00		Fern Hill	1.50
Strauss' 76	5.00		Strauss' 76	1.50
CORN WHISKEY		FOR \$3.50	Old Oscar Pepper (not in bond)	1.50
Tennessee Corn	\$1.50	We will send, express prepaid, 4 full quarts of	Planters	1.50
North Carolina Corn	1.75	STRAUSS ROYAL RESERVE	Black and White Scotch	2.00
Statesville Corn	2.00		Mt. Vernon	1.75
Mountain Corn	2.50		GIN	Per Qt. Bottle
Old Harvest Corn	3.00		London Dock Gin	.75
GIN		FOR \$3.50	Tom Gin	1.00
Swan Gin	\$1.50	We will send 4 full quarts	Holland Gin	1.00
Tom Gin	1.75	OLD HARVEST CORN	Phosphate Gin	1.50
Holland Gin	2.00	The best goods to be had for the money	Booth Tom Gin	1.50
Crown Gin	2.50		MALT HISKEY	Per Qt. Bottle
Perfection Gin	3.00		Duffy's Pure Malt	\$1.00
RUM		FOR \$6.00	Woman's	1.00
New England Rum	\$2.50	We will send, express prepaid, 4 full quarts of	SWEET GOODS	Per Gal.
Jamaica Rum	3.00	STRAUSS FAMOUS "76" RYE	Peach and Honey, "a" grade	\$1.50
BRANDY			Peach and Honey "aa" grade	2.00
Blackberry Brandy	\$1.50		Rock and Rye "a" grade	1.50
Apple Brandy	2.00		Rock and Rye "aa" grade	2.00
Peach Brandy	3.00		Orange Brandy	3.00
California Cognac	3.00		Banana Brandy	3.00
WINE			Apricot Brandy	3.00
Catawba Wine	\$1.50			
Port Wine	1.50			
Blackberry Wine	1.50			
Sherry Wine	1.50			
Imported Port Wine	4.00			
Imported Sherry Wine	4.00			

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